

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COASTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

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COASTAL USE PERMIT/CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Coastal Use Permit – General Permit 7 (CUP-GP-7)

Name and Address: **Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Management Division
P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804**

LOCATION: In the Louisiana Coastal Parishes of Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne and Vermilion.

DESCRIPTION: This General Permit provides for dredging to construct a parallel slip adjacent to an existing man-made canal or slip, for dredging to deepen an existing slip, and for dredging to construct an oil or gas access canal or slip. This General Permit also authorizes the removal and replacement of existing plugs in oil and gas canals to access work sites approved under the authority of this General Permit and the construction of plugs in oil and gas access canals constructed under the authority of this General Permit.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program and Louisiana R.S. 49, Sections 214.21 to 214.41, the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978, as amended, the permitted agrees to:

1. Carry out, perform, operate and maintain the use in accordance with the permit conditions, plans and specifications approved by the Department of Natural Resources.
2. Comply with any permit conditions imposed by the Department of Natural Resources.
3. Adjust, alter, or remove any structure or other physical evidence of the permitted use if, in the opinion of the Department of Natural Resources, it proves to be beyond the scope of the use as approved or is abandoned.
4. Provide, if required by the Department of Natural Resources, an acceptable surety bond in an appropriate amount to ensure adjustment, alteration, or removal should the Department of Natural Resources determine it necessary.
5. Hold and save the State of Louisiana, the local government, the department, and their officers and employees harmless from any damage to persons or property which might result from the use, including the work, activity, or structure permitted.
6. Certify that the use has been completed in an acceptable and satisfactory manner and in accordance with the plans and specifications approved by the Department of Natural Resources. The Department of Natural Resources may, when appropriate, require such certification to be given by a registered professional engineer.
7. All terms of the permit shall be subject to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.
8. This permit, or a copy thereof, shall be available for inspection at the site of work at all times during operations.
9. The applicant will notify the Coastal Management Division of the date on which initiation of the permitted activity described under the "Coastal Use Description" began. The applicant shall notify the Coastal Management Division by mailing the enclosed green initiation card on the date of initiation of the coastal use.
10. Unless specified elsewhere in this permit, this permit authorizes the initiation of the coastal use described under "Coastal Use Description" for two years from the date of the signature of the Secretary or his designee. If the coastal use is not initiated within this two year period, then this permit will expire and the applicant will be required to submit a new application. Initiation of the coastal use, for purposes of this permit, means the actual physical beginning of the use of activity for which the permit is required. Initiation does not include preparatory activities, such as movement of equipment onto the coastal use site, expenditure of funds, contracting out of work, or performing activities which by themselves do not require a permit. In addition, the permitted must, in good faith and with due diligence, reasonably progress toward completion of the project once the coastal use has been initiated.

11. The following special conditions must also be met in order for the use to meet the guidelines of the Coastal Resources Program:

I. General Conditions

- A. The Secretary of DNR has determined that full individual permit processing by CMD is in the public interest in order to determine whether proposed activities qualify for authorization under this General Permit. This full individual permit processing will consist of review by the staff of CMD of each authorization request. Therefore, pursuant to the Rules and Procedures for Coastal Use Permits, Title 43, Subpart 723.C.3.a, of the Louisiana Code of Administrative Procedure, an application fee will be assessed for activities proposed for authorization under the authority of this General Permit and, if appropriate, processing fees and appropriate mitigation plan processing fees will also be assessed for activities approved under the authority of this General Permit.
- B. A standard Joint Application Form shall be completed and submitted to CMD along with drawings depicting the location and character of work proposed for approval under the authority of this General Permit. The applicant shall submit a complete application packet (forms and plats) to CMD. The application shall be accompanied by a \$100.00 application fee or the application fee in effect at the time of application submittal. This General Permit shall not apply if the proposed work is determined not to meet the criteria. The applicant shall be advised by letter within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the complete application that the application shall be processed as an individual CUP if the determination is made that the proposed activity is not consistent with this General Permit.
- C. Individual written approvals from CMD must be obtained prior to the commencement of any individual activity proposed under the authority of this General Permit.
- D. Should CMD deem that they may have an interest in the project, prior to issuance of authorization for individual activities under this General Permit, the following agencies shall have a five (5) calendar day period to review the proposed activity: the Louisiana Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries; Health and Hospitals; Environmental Quality; Natural Resources/Coastal Restoration Division; Culture Recreation and Tourism; Transportation and Development; State Land Office; and the approved Parish Local Program, if applicable. CMD may issue authorization for the activity after the five-day review period or after receiving notification by each of the agencies, either in writing or by telephone, that there are no objections to the proposed activity. However, the final decision for the issuance of authorization for individual activities under the authority of this General Permit, to issue approval with modifications or additional Operating Conditions, or to deny approval for the proposed work, shall be made by the Secretary of DNR.
- E. Should it be deemed in the public interest, the Secretary shall deny authorization to perform work under the authority of this General Permit and require the applicant to obtain an individual CUP for the proposed activity.

- F. Authorization for work under the authority of this General Permit shall expire if the work is not initiated and completed within two (2) years from the date of issuance of the original written approval. Initiation of the Coastal Use, for purposes of this General Permit, means the actual physical beginning of the use or activity for which the permit is required. Initiation does not include preparatory activities, such as movement of equipment onto the Coastal Use site, expenditure of funds, contracting out of work, or performing activities which by themselves do not require a permit. In addition, the permittee must, in good faith and with due diligence, reasonably progress toward completion of the project once the Coastal Use has been initiated. All activities authorized under the authority of this General Permit must be completed within 90 days of initiation of the work, with a one-time mobilization, unless a different time schedule is specifically approved by CMD.
- G. The Term of this General Permit shall be five (5) years from the date of issuance, except as provided for in LAC 43 Subpart 723.E.3.b. The term of individual authorizations issued under the authority of this General Permit shall be two years from the date of issuance of the original individual authorization.
- H. The permittee shall notify CMD of commencement of work which is authorized under the authority of this General Permit. The permittee shall notify CMD by either providing the information in writing or entering the information through the online system, within three (3) days of the date of initiation of the authorized work.
- I. Issuance of approval under the authority of this General Permit does not relieve the applicant of obtaining other lawfully required permits (local, state, or federal) before commencing work.
- J. The permittee shall allow representatives of CMD or authorized agents to make periodic, unannounced inspections to assure the activity is being performed in accordance with the conditions of the permit.
- K. Work carried out under the authority of this General Permit shall conform to all appropriate state and federal safety regulations.
- L. An authorization issued under the authority of this General Permit may not be transferred to another party without giving prior notice to, and receiving written approval from, the CMD Administrator. A transfer form can be downloaded at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.asp>, or can be provided upon request.
- M. Work carried out under the authority of this General Permit shall be performed in full compliance with the rules and regulations of DNR which exist at the time of approval for that work.

II. Operating Conditions

- A. All logs and stumps unearthed during dredging shall be buried beneath the bottom of the waterway or removed to a disposal site on land.
- B. Spoil shall not be placed in and shall not block any tidal sloughs.
- C. The activities covered by this General Permit shall not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species. Adverse impacts on fish, wildlife and the environment shall be minimized.

- D. This general permit does not convey any property rights, mineral rights, or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize injury to property.
- E. The applicant shall notify the landowner(s), upon whose property the proposed work shall occur, of the fact that the application will be submitted. Copies of the initial notification letters sent to the landowner(s) shall be provided to CMD with the authorization request.
- F. If archaeological, historical or other cultural resources are encountered during activities authorized under the authority of this General Permit, work shall cease and the applicant shall immediately notify the Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (P. O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804) and CMD (P. O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487, (225) 342-7591). Work may not resume until written approval is obtained from CMD.
- G. The permittee shall insure that all sanitary sewage and/or related domestic wastes generated during the subject project activity and at the site, thereafter, as may become necessary shall receive the equivalent of secondary treatment (30 mg/l BOD5) with disinfection prior to discharge into any of the streams or adjacent waters of the area or, in the case of total containment, shall be disposed of in approved sewerage and sewage treatment facilities, as is required by the State Sanitary Code. Such opinion as may be served by those comments offered herein shall not be construed to suffice as any more formal approval(s) which may be required of possible sanitary details (i.e. provisions) scheduled to be associated with the subject activity. Such shall generally require that appropriate plans and specifications be submitted to the Department of Health and Hospitals for purpose of review and approval prior to any utilization of such provisions.
- H. The permittee shall comply with all applicable laws regarding the need to contact the Louisiana One Call System ([800] 272-3020) to locate any buried cables and pipelines.
- I. All activities, involving any discharge of pollutants, must be consistent with applicable water quality standards and any necessary permits issued through the Department of Environmental Quality/Office of Environmental Services (LDEQ – OES) must be obtained.
- J. Dredging and/or filling activities authorized under the authority of this General Permit shall not exceed the volume specified in the work statement of the individual authorization.
- K. Activities authorized under the authority of this General Permit shall be carried out on a one-time basis, during a one-time mobilization, except in situations where sequential phases (e.g., use of different types of dredging techniques) may be specified in the work statement of the individual authorization. Additional authorizations may be necessary for maintenance activities or work beyond the scope of the authorized activities.

- L. When adverse impacts to vegetated wetlands may result from the proposed activity, and/or when otherwise determined necessary by CMD, the applicant and CMD shall negotiate, in consultation with the owner(s) of land on which the permitted activity is proposed to occur, and those other natural resource agencies deemed appropriate by CMD, a compensatory mitigation plan, and the applicant shall implement that plan. That plan shall fulfill the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 49:214.41 and those rules and regulations adopted hereunder. The compensatory mitigation plan shall be developed prior to the issuance of approval under the authority of this General Permit. The expiration of the term of this General Permit, or the revocation or expiration of approval to perform work under the authority of this General Permit, shall not absolve the permittee, its transferees, or assignees from the obligation and responsibility of implementing and maintaining the compensatory mitigation plan.
- M. The applicant shall adhere to the following conditions if the project is within the boundaries of a public oyster seed ground:
1. Permittee shall be liable for, and shall compensate the state for, any damages to the oyster seed grounds caused by Permittee or Permittee's contractors during any work done under this permit. Prior to commencement of the permitted activity, Applicant will also provide LDWF with the name of an individual in authority who can be contacted regarding any work done under the permit.
 2. Compensation for impacts to the public oyster seed grounds shall be in the form of the planting of cultch material (i.e. crushed concrete, limestone, oyster shell, etc) at the rate of 1 cubic yard per acre of impacted area for barren, non-supportive areas of the seed grounds, 50 cubic yards per acre of impacted area for supportive areas, and 187 cubic yards per acre of impacted area for reef areas plus the value of any living oyster resources destroyed. Applicant shall bear the expense of acquisition and deposition of cultch. The cultch shall be deposited by the Applicant, Applicant's contractor, or sub-contractor, under the direct supervision of LDWF, and shall be deposited at a time, place, and in a manner prescribed by the Department. In lieu of planting cultch material, the Applicant may make payment directly to the Public Oyster Seed Ground Development Account.
 3. Permittee shall not discharge any drilling and/or workover effluent except for flocculated filtered water into the waters in the areas of the proposed activity. Discharge rate of water shall not exceed the rate of filtering.
 4. Permittee shall not discharge any produced waters into the waters in the areas of proposed activity.
 5. Permittee, Permittee's contractors and sub-contractors shall not discharge any human waste from any vessel that does not meet or exceed the requirements of the Department of Health and Hospitals.
 6. If access route traverses a currently productive public oyster area, the Applicant shall secure approval of the access route from LDWF and shall ingress and egress to the project location only along the approved route.
 7. Permittee shall establish and maintain, until the project is complete, along the access route appropriate access route markings for vessels traveling to and from the project location. These markings may be subject to applicable local, state, and federal navigation requirements. These markings shall be sufficient to be used during day and night operations as well as in any climatic and sea condition which may occur during permitted activities.

8. Permittee shall provide legal representation and indemnification to LDWF for any and all lawsuits and legal claims that may be filed or made against LDWF as a result of the activities by Applicant.
 9. This permit specifically does not authorize prop washing, wheel washing, dredging, or jetting beyond what is shown in the application and drawings. Any changes or variances in the location, access route, volume of material moved and/or magnitude of the area of impact shall require formal application to, and prior written authorization from, DNR. The decision by DNR whether to authorize those changes will require consultation by DNR with LDWF in strict adherence to all applicable provisions of the February 3, 2005 Memorandum of Agreement between those two agencies.
 10. Permittee shall have at the project location float booms for containing any spills.
 11. At the discretion of the Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, any activities may be suspended until more favorable conditions prevail.
 12. Permittee shall provide a letter of completion and as-built drawings of the completed project to the LDWF no later than 60 days following completion of the permitted activity.
 13. At the discretion of LDWF, a post-project bottom contour and side-scan survey may be required. The results of these surveys will be made available to the Department, upon request.
 14. Permittee shall remove or spread any dredged material which is greater than 0.5 feet above original bottom contours.
 15. At the discretion of LDWF, the Permittee may be required to return all or part of water bottoms to pre-project conditions.
 16. All vessels utilized under this permit shall be of such size and loaded in such a manner as to not impact the water bottoms over which they pass.
 17. Permittee shall provide to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries a water bottom assessment (unless waived by LDWF) that meets LDWF water bottom assessment sampling protocol prior to commencement of permitted activity.
- N. If the project authorized under the authority of this General Permit is located on the aboriginal homelands of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana and/or at any time during the course of work any traditional cultural properties are discovered, the permittee shall immediately contact Kimberly S. Walden (Cultural Director) or Melanie Aymond (Research Coordinator) at (337) 923-9923 or (337) 923-4395. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM. and on Friday between 7:30 AM and 11:30 PM. If traditional cultural properties are discovered on the weekend or after business hours, the notification shall be made the next business morning.

III. This General Permit does not apply in the following locations without prior written authorization from the appropriate agencies:

- A. Work under the authority of this General Permit shall not be approved in the following areas, without prior written approval of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF):
 - 1. Within one-quarter mile of the boundary of or within a currently productive oyster seed ground, oyster seed reservation or public oyster harvesting area; or
 - 2. Within the boundaries of an LDWF-owned or managed wildlife refuge or wildlife management area; or
 - 3. Within 1,000 feet, or other distance deemed appropriate by LDWF, of a known bald eagle nest; or
 - 4. Within 1,500 feet, or other distance deemed appropriate by LDWF, of a known bird rookery area.
 - 5. Within the officially designated critical habitat of a threatened or endangered species.
- B. Work under the authority of this General Permit shall not be approved in the following areas, unless the applicant first provides a letter of no objection from the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.
 - 1. Within a State Park, State Recreation Area or State Commemorative Area; or
 - 2. Within any known historic or archaeological site or within the boundaries of an historical district.
- C. Within 1,000 feet of an established navigation channel or fairway constructed, owned, operated, or maintained by federal, state or local governments, or with federal, state or local government funds, without written consent of each appropriate agency or governing body. An authorization request that is not accompanied by such written permission shall be processed as an application for an individual CUP. If, however, there is a physical barrier at the project site that isolates the Coastal Use from the navigation channel or fairway and effectively prevents any interchange between the two, this restriction does not apply.
- D. Within 1,000 feet of a levee or other flood control facility constructed, owned, operated or maintained by federal, state or local governments, or with federal, state or local government funds, without the written consent of each appropriate agency or governing body.
- E. Within 1,500 feet of a barrier island, barrier island feature, chenier or other coastal feature without the approval of the appropriate resource agencies that CMD determines to have programmatic interests.

IV. This General Permit does NOT apply in the following situations:

- A. Within 1,000 feet of an area determined to be a unique ecological feature by the Secretary of DNR.
- B. Within Special Significance Areas designated pursuant to R.S. 49:214.41(F) and those rules and regulations adopted there under, where applicable.

- C. Within the boundaries of a national park or monument, national wildlife refuge or established buffer zone for any such national site.

V. Special Conditions

- A. Activities proposed for authorization under the authority of this General Permit must undergo the Geologic Review Procedure to consider alternative drilling sites when:
1. There are adverse impacts to more than 1/4 of an acre of vegetated wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation.
 2. Requested by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for projects to occur within:
 - a. within one-quarter of a mile or within the boundaries of an oyster lease, oyster seed ground, oyster seed reservation or public oyster harvesting area or other shell reef area; or
 - b. within the boundaries of an LDWF-owned or managed wildlife refuge or wildlife management area; or
 - c. Within an area designated as a natural and scenic river in accordance with the provisions of R. S. 56:1840.
 3. The Secretary or his designee determines that it is in the public interest.
- B. This General Permit authorizes dredging to construct a 120-foot by 375-foot by 8-foot parallel slip with a 60-foot by 60-foot by 8-foot deep wing, adjacent and contiguous to an existing oil and gas canal or slip for the purpose of drilling an oil, gas, or salt water disposal well. Other configurations which would have the same area or reduced area may also be approved under this general permit. Unless it is determined by the Geologic Review Procedure that alternative placement would have reduced environmental impacts, excavated material shall be placed in contiguous spoil banks along the canal and slip. The base of the spoil banks shall not exceed 75 feet in width.
- C. This General Permit authorizes dredging to deepen an existing oil or gas well slip to provide sufficient water depth, not to exceed eight feet, to accommodate a drilling or workover rig. Excavated material shall be placed upon existing spoil banks to the maximum extent practicable. The base of the spoil banks shall not exceed 75 feet in width.
- D. This General Permit authorizes a 70-foot wide by 8-foot deep canal or slip for the purpose of drilling an oil, gas, or salt water disposal well. The total length of the canal and slip constructed under the authority of the General Permit shall not exceed 500 feet in length. The total width of the slip constructed under the authority of this General Permit shall not exceed 160 feet. Unless it is determined through the Geologic Review Procedure that alternative placement would have reduced adverse environmental impacts, excavated material shall be placed in continuous spoil banks along the canal and slip. The base of spoil banks shall not exceed 75 feet in width.

- E. Within 120 days of plugging the well, an earthen plug capped with rip-rap and other erosion resistant material approved by CMD shall be constructed at the mouths of all canals which are constructed under the authority of the General Permit. Unless it is determined through the Geologic Review Process or by the Secretary that such plug will cause significant adverse environmental impacts. The plug shall have, after settling and subsidence, an elevation of not less than 3 feet above mean water level, a width of not less than 30 feet at mean water level, and side slopes of not less than 3 to 1. The plug may be inspected by CMD to determine if it is operating to prevent water movement within 2 years of construction, or within 5 years of written approval, whichever is longer. Should the plug not be operating in a satisfactory manner at the time of inspection, the permittee shall be required to restore the plug to proper functioning and the above minimum dimensions. Within one hundred and 120 days of plugging the well, gaps at least 50 feet wide shall be cut at least every 300 feet in spoil banks constructed under the authority of this General Permit, unless it is determined through the Geologic Review Procedure or by the Secretary that such gapping will cause significant adverse environmental impacts. Modifications or exceptions to the canal plugging and/or spoil bank gapping requirements shall not be considered by the Secretary unless the permittee first provides a letter(s) of no objection from:
1. LDWF for areas:
 - a. within one-quarter mile of an oyster lease, oyster seed ground, oyster reservation or public oyster harvesting area;
 - b. within the boundaries of an DWF owned or managed refuge or wildlife management area; or
 - c. within an area designated as a natural and scenic river in accordance with the provisions of R. S. 56:1840 et seq., and,
 2. Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism within:
 - a. any State Park, State Recreational Area or State Commemorative Area; or
 - b. any known historic or archaeological site or within the boundaries of an historic district, or
 - c. the Secretary or his designee determines that it is in the public interest.
- F. Any canal plug removed in the performance of work under the authority of this General Permit shall be restored to its pre-removal condition within 120 days of abandonment of the well site. Any canal plug removed in the performance of work under this general permit shall be restored, at a minimum, to meet the specifications and requirements of Special Condition E.
- G. Should a proposed parallel slip require the use of an existing permitted canal for access and if the existing canal is required to be restored upon abandonment, the application for the proposed work shall include a signed agreement between the permittee of the existing canal and the applicant for the proposed slip or canal. That agreement shall describe a plan for plugging all adjoining canals and gapping of all involved spoil banks, upon abandonment of each respective well site(s), and shall also describe each party's responsibilities to ensure that all canal plug(s) are installed and all spoil banks are gapped or degraded as required in the original permit. This condition will apply even if different companies or individuals are involved.

VI. Definitions

A. As used in this General Permit, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them:

1. Geologic Review Procedure means the process by which alternative methods, including alternative locations, for oil and gas exploration are evaluated on their environmental, technical, and economic merits on an individual basis; alternative methods, including alternative locations, of oil and gas production and transmission activities which are specifically associated with the proposed exploration activity shall also be evaluated in this process. These alternative methods, including alternative locations, are presented and evaluated at a meeting by a group of representatives of the involved parties. A geologic review group is composed, at a minimum, of representatives of the applicant, a petroleum geologist and a petroleum engineer representing the Coastal Management Division and/or the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers, and a representative of the Coastal Management Division Permit Section, and may include, but is not limited to, representatives of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
2. "Wetlands" means an open water area or an area that is inundated or saturated by surface or ground, water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, which occur within the designated coastal zone of the state. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.
3. Fill materials used shall be free of contaminants, solid and/or hazardous wastes (as specified in the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality regulations), including but not limited to wood debris, shingles, insulation and asbestos. All concrete/rip-rap shall be free of protruding (rebar) rods.

*****END OF CONDITIONS*****

By accepting this permit the applicant agrees to its terms and conditions.

I affix my signature and issue this permit this 17th day of February, 20 09.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Jim Rives, Administrator
Coastal Management Division

This agreement becomes binding when signed by the Administrator of the Coastal Management Division, Department of Natural Resources.